

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17133

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TGEN, SHUM, UK, AS, FR, GW
SUBJECT: EFFECT OF SOVIET TRIALS ON SCIENTIFIC
AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES

1. SUMMARY: EFFECT OF SOVIET TRIALS ON SCIENTIFIC
AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS IN OTHER
WESTERN COUNTRIES HAS BEEN MIXED. THERE HAVE BEEN
SOME EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN VOICED PUBLICLY BY PRIVATE
SCIENTISTS (UK AND FRANCE) AND SOME CANCELLATION OF
HIGH-LEVEL VISITS (FRANCE AND UK), BUT MOST WORKING-
LEVEL PROGRAMS ARE CONTINUING (ALBEIT ON A DIFFICULT
AND TENUOUS BASIS). MOSCOW-BASED WESTERN SCIATTS
SEE LITTLE PROSPECT FOR INCREASE IN SCIENTIFIC/
TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION IN PRESENT POLITICAL
CLIMATE. END SUMMARY.

2. SCICOUNS TOOK OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY REGULAR
MEETING JULY 20 WITH OTHER WESTERN SCIATTS IN
MOSCOW TO INQUIRE ABOUT EFFECT OF DISSIDENT TRIALS ON
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SCIENCE EXCHANGES WITH THE SOVIETS. FRENCH SCIATT SAID
THAT WHILE COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS ARE CONTINUING
THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF FRICTION AND DIFFICULTY
(COMMENTS ON FRANCO-SOVIET COOPERATION IN SPACE AND
NUCLEAR POWER REPORTED SEPTEL). THERE WAS THE CANCELLA-
TION OF A PLANNED VISIT BY MIN OF STATE FOR SCIENCE
AIGRAIN TO THE SOVIET UNION. FRENCH DID NOT, HOWEVER,

SPECIFICALLY LINK AIGRAIN CANCELLATION TO TRIALS. SCIATT EXPECTED A MIXED JOINT COMMISSION (ECONOMIC-SCIENCE) MEETING (OF WHICH PM BARRE IS FRENCH CHAIRMAN) TO TAKE PLACE IN OCTOBER AS SCHEDULED. ON THE UNOFFICIAL SIDE, HE NOTED RECENT DECISION OF 5 DIRECTORS OF CNRS (CENTRE NATIONALE DE RECHERCHES SCIENTIFIQUES) TO STOP COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIETS IN PHYSICS (SUCH AREAS AS PARTICLE ACCELERATION, SYNCHROTRON RADIATION). THIS OCCURRED BEFORE THE SHCHARANSKIY-GINZBURG TRIALS, AS A DELAYED REACTION TO THE ORLOV SENTENCE. (NB. ORLOV'S SCIENTIFIC SPECIALITY IS PARTICLE PHYSICS.) AS A RESULT OF THE SHCHARANSKIY TRIAL SEVERAL LEADING MEMBERS OF FRENCH SCIENCE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING MATHEMATICIAN LAURENT SCHWARTZ AND SEVERAL NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS, HAVE INDICATED THEY WOULD CUT OFF COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIETS.

3. AUSTRALIAN SCIATT NOTED THAT EVEN BEFORE TRIAL COOPERATION HAD BEEN AT A VERY LOW LEVEL. THE SOVIETS HAD CANCELLED ANNUAL REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING EARLIER THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF THE DENIAL OF A VISA TO A MEMBER OF SOVIET DELEGATION, YURI RAKOVSKIY OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. BEFORE THE TRIALS THE AUSTRALIANS HAD BEEN EDGING TOWARDS ACCOMMODATING THE SOVIETS, BUT HAVE NOW DECIDED NOT TO DO SO AND TO LET THE FEW ODDS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ENDS FROM LAST YEAR'S PROGRAM WIND DONW.

4. BRITISH SCIATT NOTED THE WITHDRAWAL OF AN INVITATION TO SOVIET COAL MINISTER BRATCHENKO FOR A VISIT THIS MONTH. THERE WERE NO SPECIFICALLY SCIENCE-RELATED MEETINGS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL SCHEDULED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN ADDITION, THE ROYAL SOCIETY HAS PUBLICLY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE FATE OF SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS BUT HAS NOT DIRECTLY ADDRESSED THE SOVIETS ON THE ISSUE. LOWER LEVEL CONTACTS ARE CONTINUING.

5. FRG SCIATT WAS UNAWARE OF ANY EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN AMONG FRG SCIENTISTS. THERE ARE NO OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT EXCHANGES IN THE SCIENCE AREA. SHE EXPECTED ECONOMIC JOINT COMMISSION MEETING 12 SEPTEMBER TO TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED.

6. MOST SCIATTS EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT ANY INCREASE IN SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION GIVEN PRESENT POLITICAL CLIMATE. THEY INDICATED THAT DEBATE ON THE MOST EFFECTIVE RESPONSE IN THE SCIENTIFIC-

TECHNICAL AREA TO SOVIET TREATMENT OF DISSIDENTS AND
SCIENTISTS WAS STILL GOING ON, WITH NO CLEAR INDICATION
OF FUTURE GOVERNMENT POLICY. TOON

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